04
EIGHTH

TL/TLC: Castellan
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—RIO-SAN HAS SUCH A SMALL BODY,
AND SHE MUST BE IN INCREDIBLE PAIN, BEING SO SICK—
YOU MIGHT SAY "SOON I WON'T BE USEFUL",
OR YOU MIGHT SMILE AND SAY "I'M SURE IT'LL BE FINE",
NOT KNOWING WHAT YOUR LIFE WILL BE LIKE TOMORROW.

LUCA-SAN....
.....
THERE WERE THINGS EVEN YOU WANTED TO DO, THINGS YOU NEEDED TO DO—
EVEN YOU...
YOU RISKED YOUR LIFE WATCHING OVER ME.
...
CELCIA.
ARE YOU OKAY?
.....
I'M FINE.

Operation.31（オペレーション）

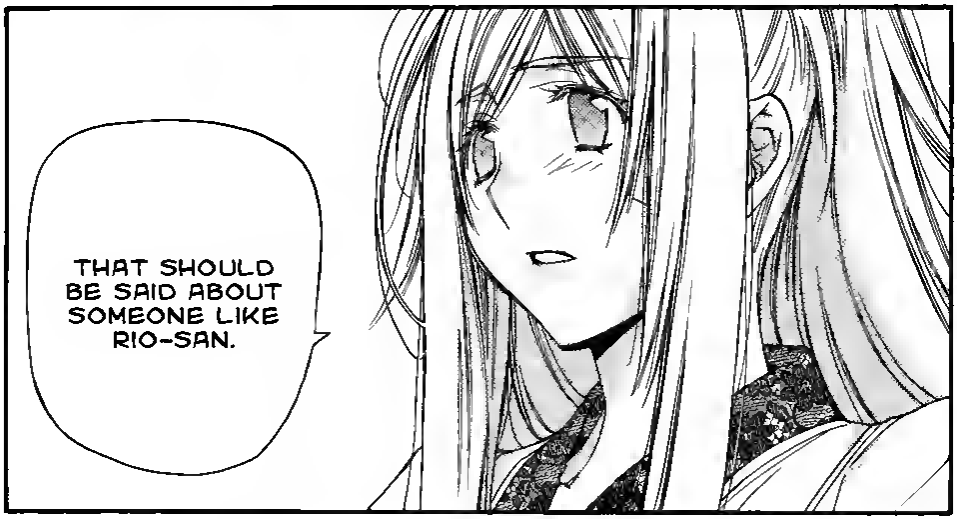
Quality of Life,⑫

Marionette（操り人形）

...AH, RIGHT.
OKAY, LATER THEN.
THAT'S FINE. KEEP THEM WAITING.
I SAID IT'S FINE.
I HAVE A PREVIOUS ENGAGE-MENT.
SFX: NOK-NOK
—CHIEF.
IT'S NAOYA. I BROUGHT HER.
YEAH, SURE.
COME ON IN.
GOOD WORK.

ガヤ
WELCOME, YOUR HOLINESS.
...PLEASE STOP THAT.
I AM NO SUCH THING.
DON'T SAY THAT. IT'S A RARE HONOR.

SFX: BEEP


THAT SHOULD BE SAID ABOUT SOMEONE LIKE RIO-SAN.

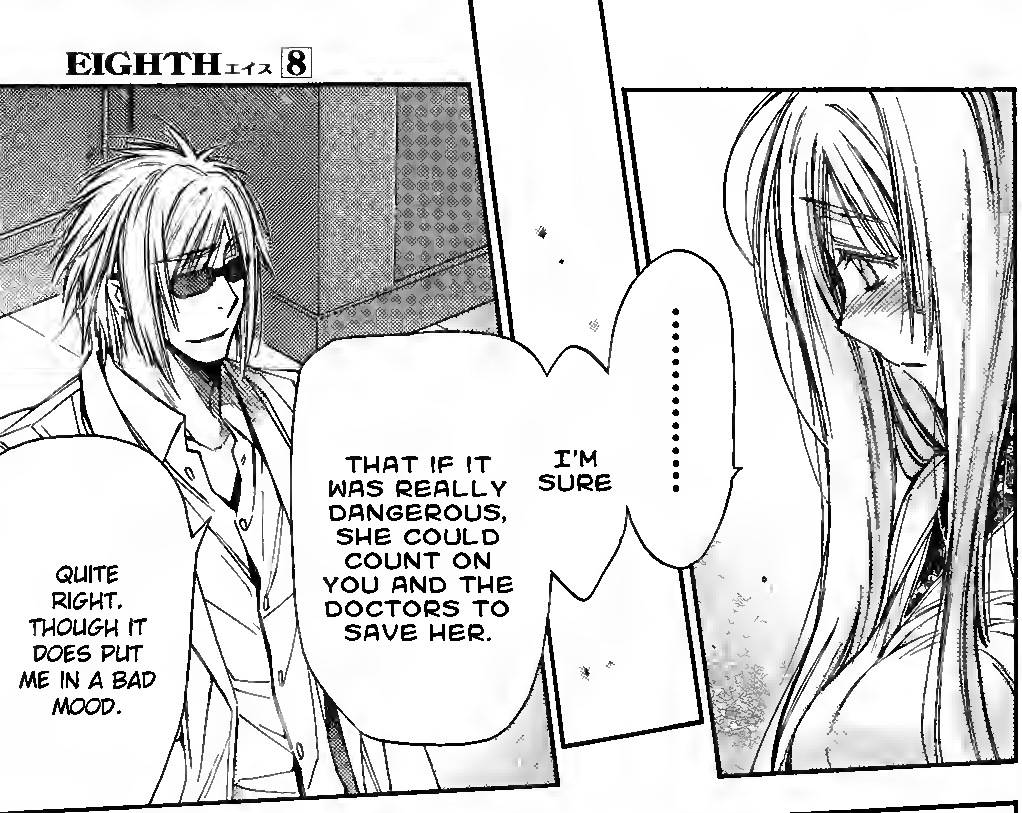
...I SEE.
SO YOU'VE BEEN TO SEE RIO-SENSEI.
YES.
AND?
IS THERE SOMETHING YOU WISH TO SAY TO ME?
I MEAN, YOU CAME ALL THE WAY FROM THE VATICAN.
.....

...IS RIO-SAN... RE-COVERING?
HM?
SHE'S RE-COVERING.
IF SHE'S DOING AS INSTRUCTED, SHE SHOULD BE.
DID SHE LOOK WELL?
IN TRUTH, IT'S NOT WORKING.
SHE TAKES SEVERE MEDICATION, AND SHE NEEDS BLOOD TRANSFUSIONS.

From this side through surgery.
!
UHM... THEY PUT A TUBE DIRECTLY INTO HER BODY.
WHEN RIO-SENSEI IS SLEEPING, THEY REMOVE HER CATHETER.
MAYBE LIKE YOU'D SEE IN A BAD DREAM.
RIO-SENSEI IS QUITE RATIONAL FOR ONE WHO'S STILL JUST 8 YEARS OLD.
IT'S ALSO HER OWN FAULT THAT ***HER GENTLE ONEE-CHAN*** LEFT TO GO SOMEWHERE.
ANYWAY, THEY NEED TO PUT IT BACK IN.
SHE'LL HAVE SURGERY ONCE AGAIN.
THOUGH BEFORE, EVEN JUST MOVING WAS PAINFUL.

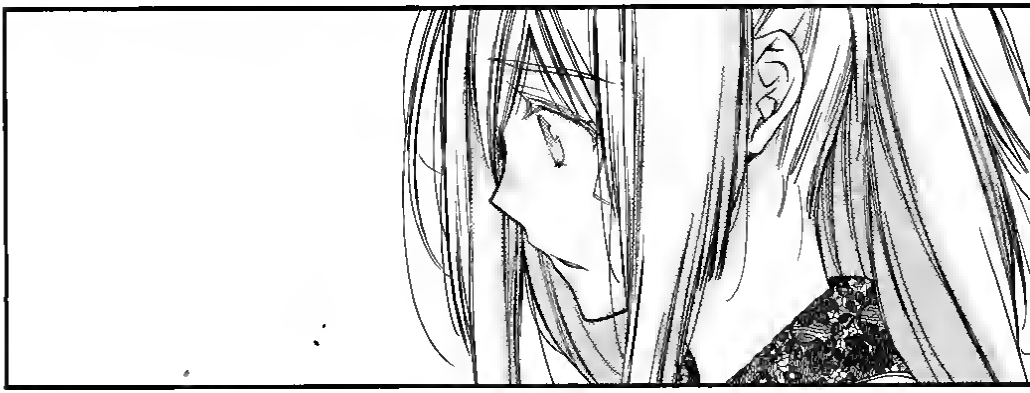
CELCIA...
SHE PRETTY MUCH CAN'T GO OUTSIDE THE HOSPITAL ROOM.
AND WHEN TOLD THAT—
ALL RIO-SENSEI SAID WAS "I UNDERSTAND".
BUT—
NATURALLY, AS A SENSEI SHE UNDER-STANDS.
BUT...

SINCE THERE ARE SO MANY DOCTORS AND NURSES AT THE HOSPITAL,
I'M SORRY. THIS MUCH IS FINE.
I JUST WANTED TO TALK TO THEM.
I'M SURE IT'LL BE OKAY.
...SO IT HAS BEEN A PROBLEM FOR HER AFTER ALL.
DON'T YOU THINK SO, YOUR HOLINESS?


.....
I'M SURE
THAT IF IT WAS REALLY DANGEROUS, SHE COULD COUNT ON YOU AND THE DOCTORS TO SAVE HER.
QUITE RIGHT. THOUGH IT DOES PUT ME IN A BAD MOOD.

BUT...
SHE IS CURRENTLY DOING
WHAT IS MOST IMPORTANT TO HER.
QUITE RIGHT.

WHAT ABOUT YOU?

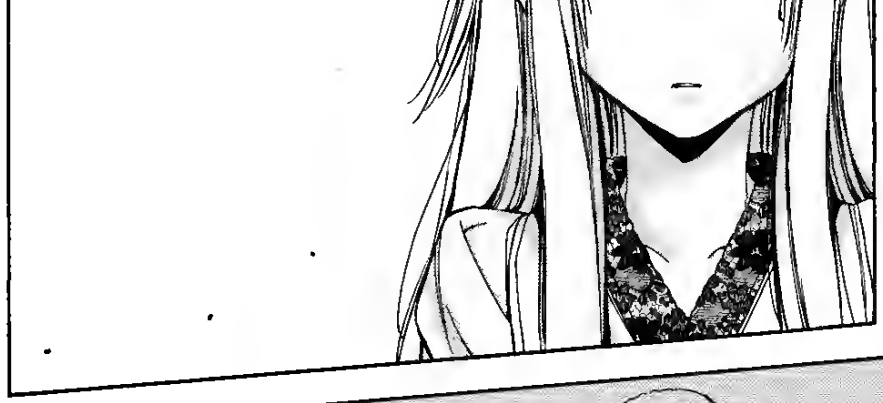


YOU WERE IN A POSITION WHERE YOU HAD TWO HANDSOME KNIGHTS AT YOUR DISPOSAL.
WHAT HAPPENED?

ONE DIED IN THEIR SERVICE OF THE GENTLE QUEEN.
HEY!
YOU KEEP QUIET.
THERE IS NO WAY TO CHANGE HOW IT ENDED.
JUST AS THERE IS NO WAY TO CHANGE THE POWER YOU POSSESS.
AND THERE IS ALSO NO WAY TO CHANGE THE UNIQUE GENES RIO-SENSEI POSSESSES.
EVERYONE SHARES "BLAME" EQUALLY.

...NO, EVEN SO...

YOU DID NOTHING WRONG.

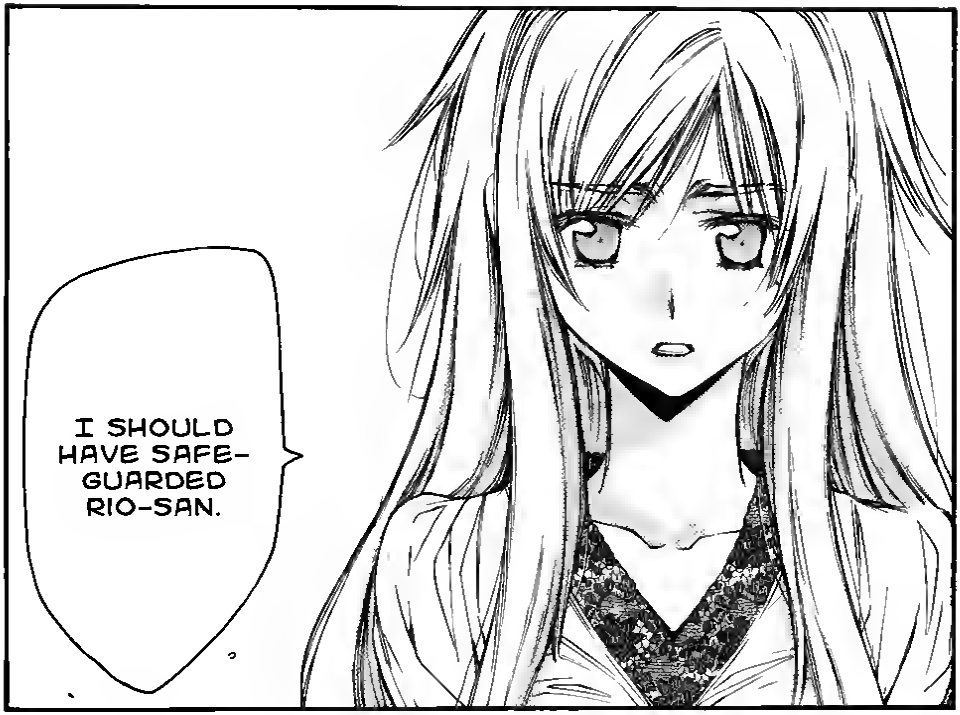


EVEN SO...

CELCIA.

.....
...THERE IS NO DENYING
THAT IN THE VATICAN
I KILLED SOMEONE WITH MY POWER.
...YES, I HEARD.
IT WAS TO PROTECT YOUR OWN SELF-WORTH, SO IT'S ONLY NATURAL.
I TOO WOULD PROTECT YOU FROM THAT.
ABSO-LUTELY.

BUT UNFORTUNATELY, YOU ARE NOT A NORMAL GIRL
IN A NUMBER OF WAYS.
AND THINGS ARE JUST GETTING STARTED.
...I...
SHOULD HAVE BEEN MORE RES-PONSIBLE FROM THE VERY START
IN HAVING SOMEONE TAKE ME SOMEWHERE SAFE—

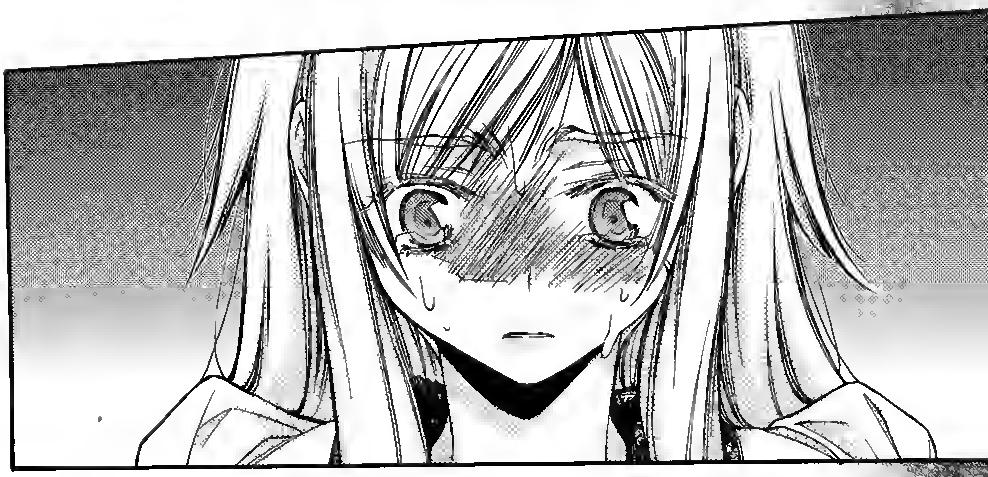

I SHOULD HAVE SAFE-GUARDED RIO-SAN.

...EVEN NOW I DON'T WANT TO INVOLVE RIO-SAN AND EVERYONE ELSE IN MY PROBLEMS. THAT HASN'T CHANGED. BUT...
EVEN SO...

JUST
THAT ONE
EVENT...

...EVEN
THROUGH THAT
ONE EVENT—

I'M THE ONE WHO GOT LUCA-SAN KILLED.



WHAT HAVE I DONE?

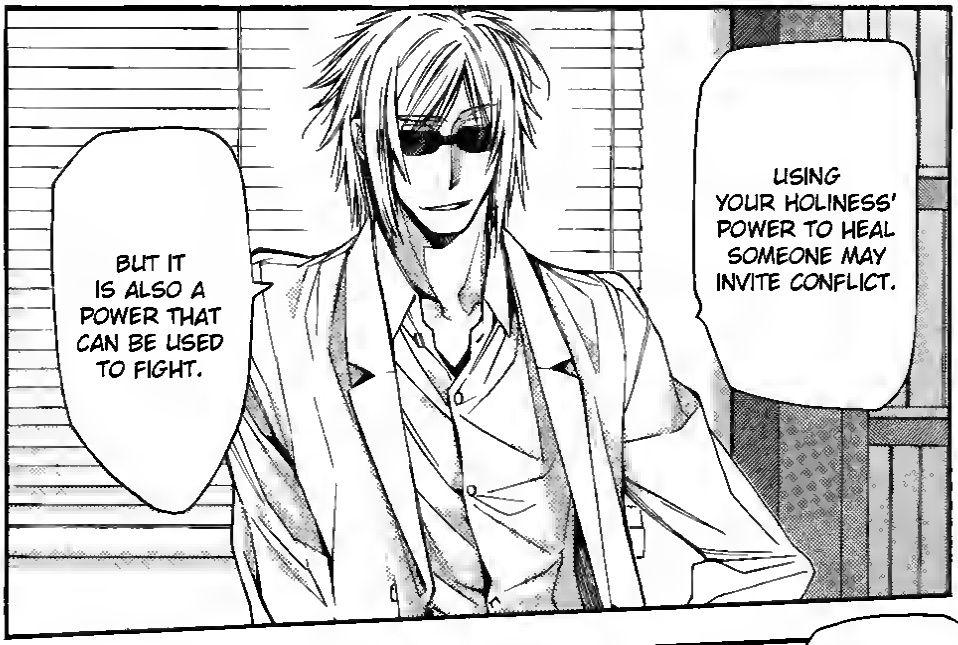
YES.

IT IS JUST AS CHIEF-SAN SAYS.

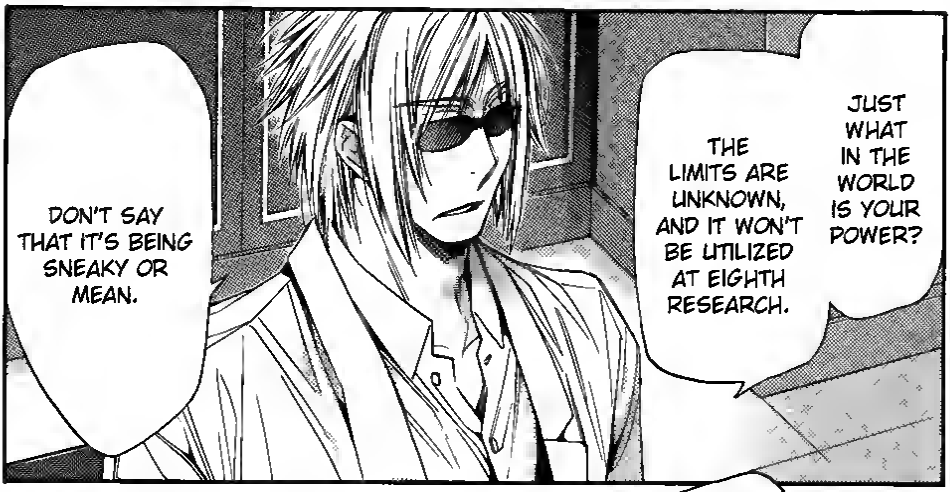
EVEN THOUGH I...

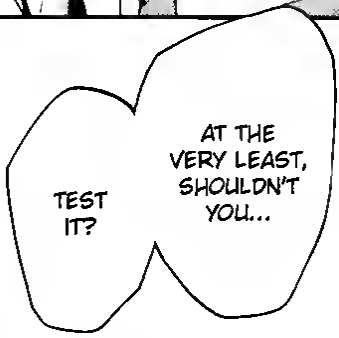
EVEN THOUGH I HAD PEOPLE WHO WOULD SAVE ME—
...I DIDN'T PUT
MY FAITH IN THEM...

...YOU'RE RIGHT.


USING YOUR HOLINESS' POWER TO HEAL SOMEONE MAY INVITE CONFLICT.
BUT IT IS ALSO A POWER THAT CAN BE USED TO FIGHT.

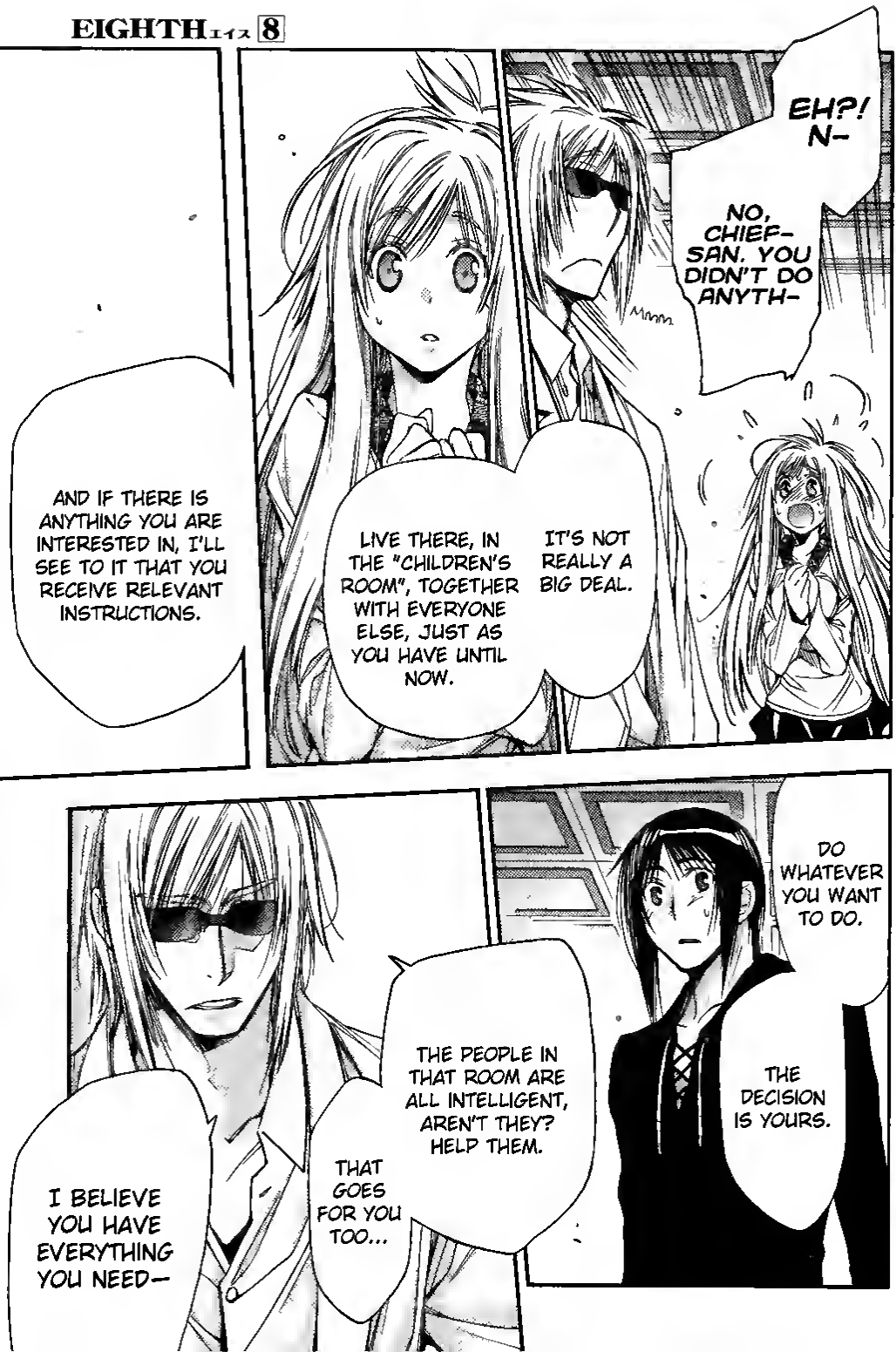
"THE POWER TO FAST-FORWARD THE LIFESPAN OF LIVING THINGS."
WHAT I SEE IS SIMPLY "THE POWER TO MAKE PEOPLE REACH DEATH QUICKLY".
.....!


JUST WHAT IN THE WORLD IS YOUR POWER?
THE LIMITS ARE UNKNOWN, AND IT WON'T BE UTILIZED AT EIGHTH RESEARCH.
DON'T SAY THAT IT'S BEING SNEAKY OR MEAN.


AT THE VERY LEAST, SHOULDN'T YOU...
TEST IT?

.....
I AM A FORMER RESEARCHER,
SO I AM DEFINITELY INTERESTED...
OH, YOUR HOLINESS. I DON'T MEAN TO CRITICIZE YOU.

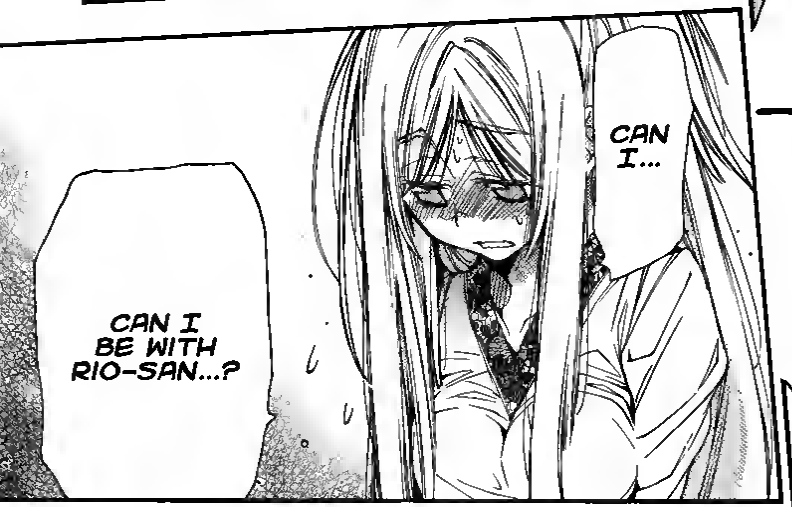
NOT KNOWING ANYTHING ABOUT IT, YOU CAN'T FACE YOUR OWN POWER.
YOU CHOSE TO FLEE TO THE VATICAN BECAUSE THE ADULTS WERE MANIPULATING YOU.
BY ME CALLING YOU HERE, THAT HAS BEEN PUT TO AN END.
!


EH?! N-
NO, CHIEF-SAN. YOU DIDN'T DO ANYTH-
IT'S NOT REALLY A BIG DEAL.
LIVE THERE, IN THE "CHILDREN'S ROOM", TOGETHER WITH EVERYONE ELSE, JUST AS YOU HAVE UNTIL NOW.
AND IF THERE IS ANYTHING YOU ARE INTERESTED IN, I'LL SEE TO IT THAT YOU RECEIVE RELEVANT INSTRUCTIONS.
DO WHATEVER YOU WANT TO DO.
THE DECISION IS YOURS.
THE PEOPLE IN THAT ROOM ARE ALL INTELLIGENT, AREN'T THEY? HELP THEM.
THAT GOES FOR YOU TOO...
I BELIEVE YOU HAVE EVERYTHING YOU NEED—

TO STAND ON YOUR OWN.
.....

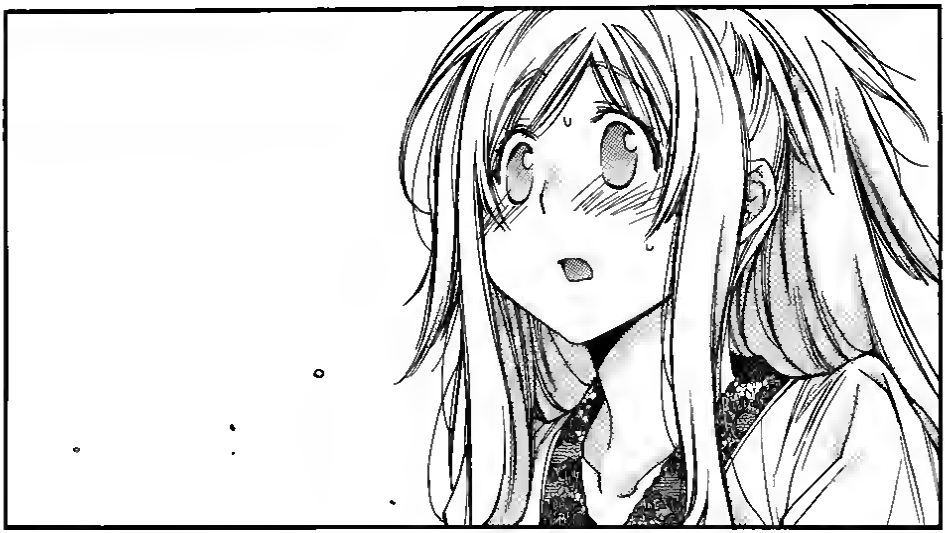
EX-
CUSE
ME.
THANK
YOU
VERY
MUCH...

UM...
I...
UH,
THAT
IS...
I
AM...

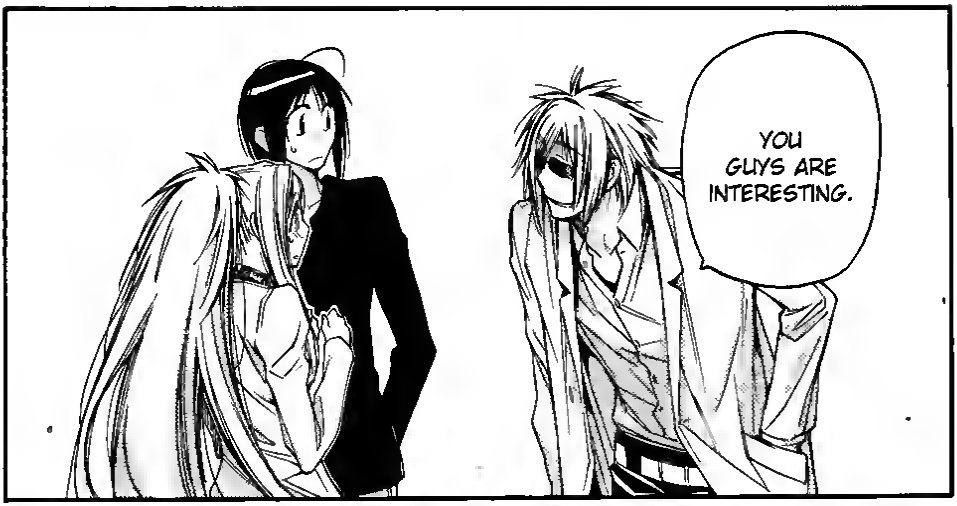

CAN
I...
CAN I
BE WITH
RIO-SAN...?

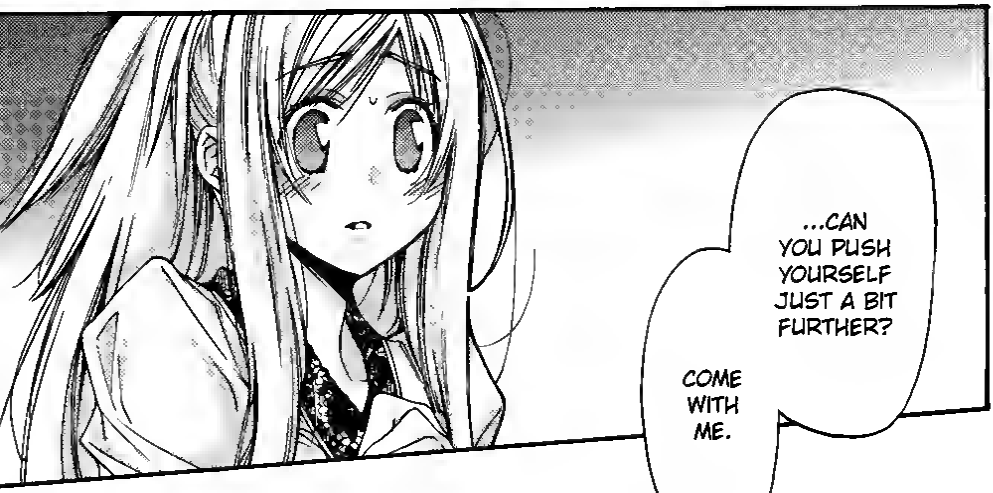
——AH.

Heh.
AS FOR THAT...
DID YOU ASK RIO-SENSEI?

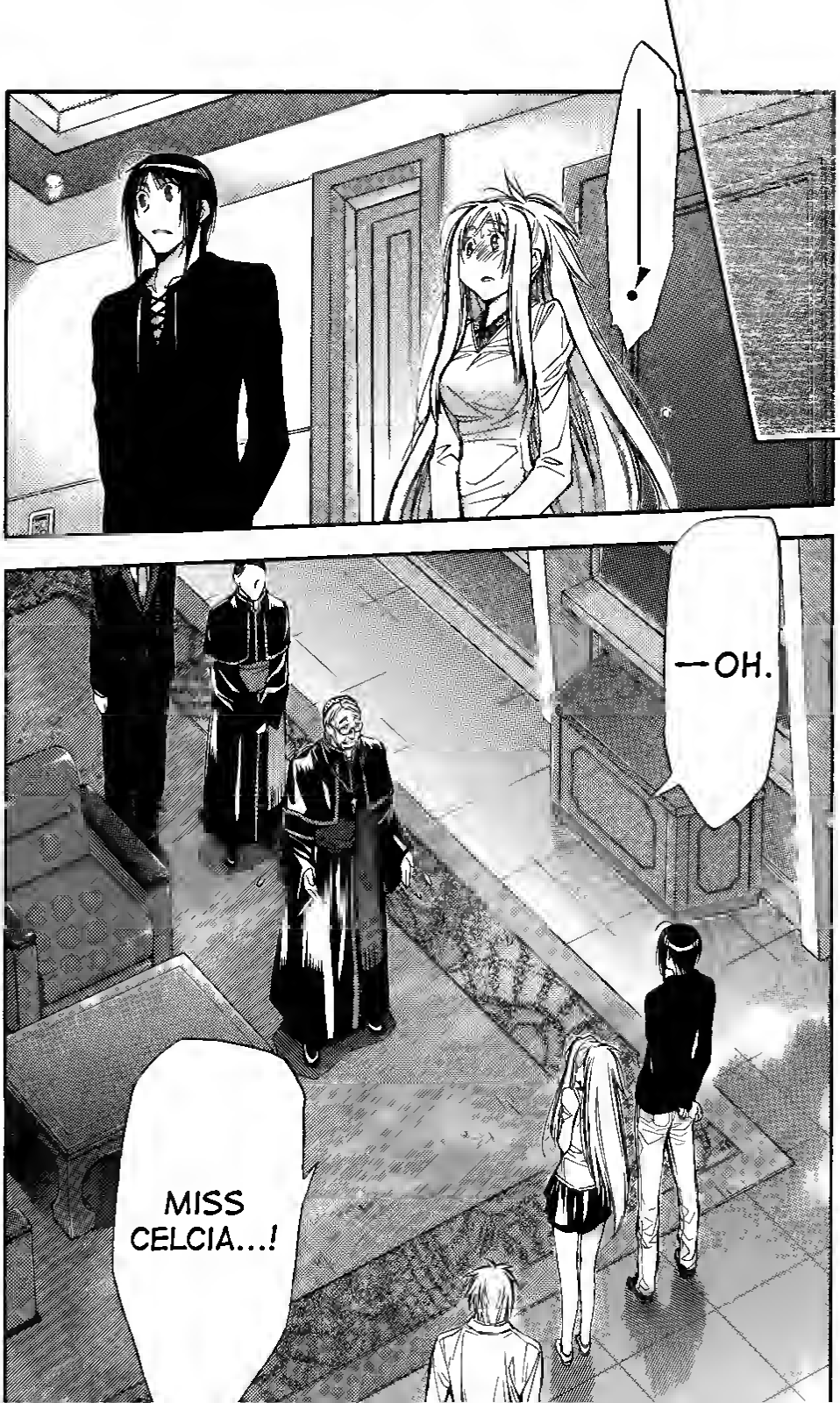


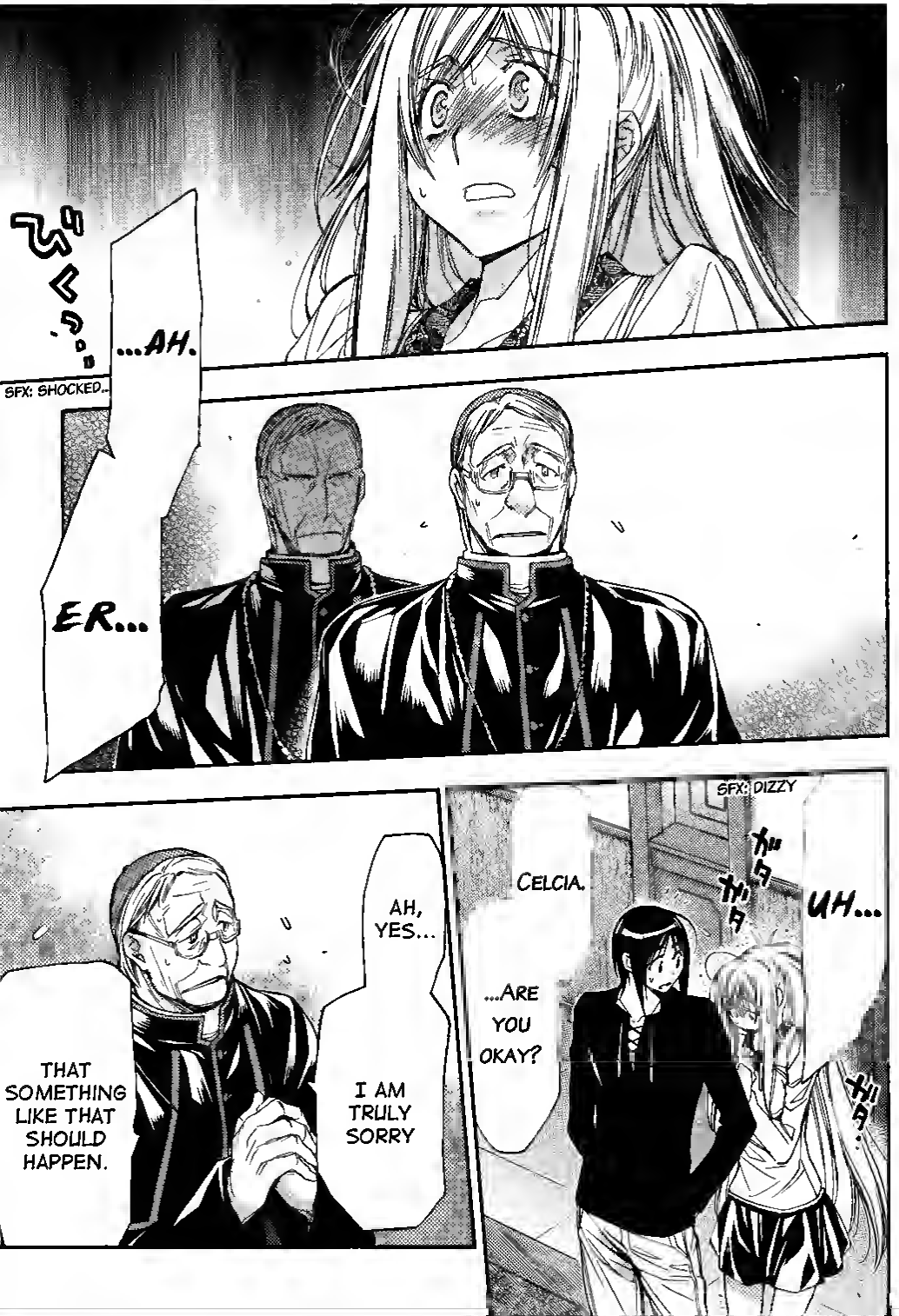
AH... OH.
THANK YOU SO MUCH...!
...TO BE HONEST, I THOUGHT YOU WOULD COME HERE AND GRIPE ABOUT ME LETTING YOU USE YOUR POWER.
BUT YOU WON'T, WILL YOU?





A GUEST HAS COME FOR YOU.


!
—OH.
MISS CELCIA...!


...AH.
SFX: SHOCKED..
ER...
AH, YES...
I AM TRULY SORRY
THAT SOMETHING LIKE THAT SHOULD HAPPEN.
SFX: DIZZY
CELCIA.
...ARE YOU OKAY?
UH...

...AND, WELL...
I WOULD LIKE TO TALK WITH YOU FOR A BIT,
IF THAT'S OKAY.
I AM VERNANZO.
I AM THE ONE WHO ASSIGNS CARDINALS' DUTIES IN THE VATICAN.
I AM THE ARCHBISHOP OVERSEEING THE DIOCESE OF SICILY.

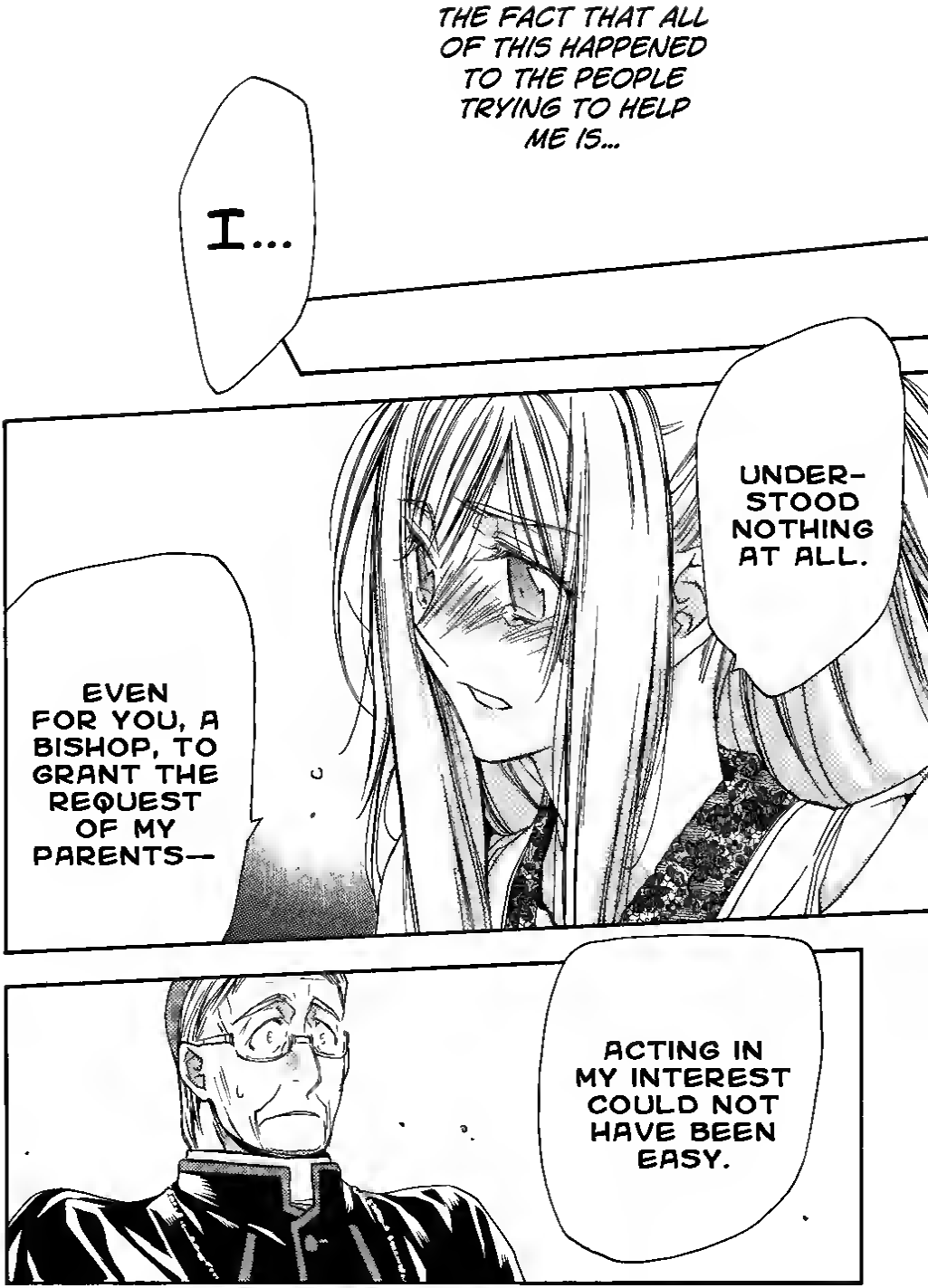
YES.
...SI-
SICILY ...?!
...CELCIA'S HOME...?
WHEN YOU WERE STILL VERY YOUNG, I USED TO ATTEND CHURCH TOGETHER WITH YOUR PARENTS, NEAR YOUR HOME.
IT IS MY DISTRICT.

YOU PROBABLY DON'T REMEMBER MUCH AT ALL, I EXPECT. THE TIME WHEN YOU WERE AT PEACE WAS SO SHORT...
AND I WAS THE ONE WHO GAVE LUCA THE COMMAND TO ESCORT YOU TO THE VATICAN—

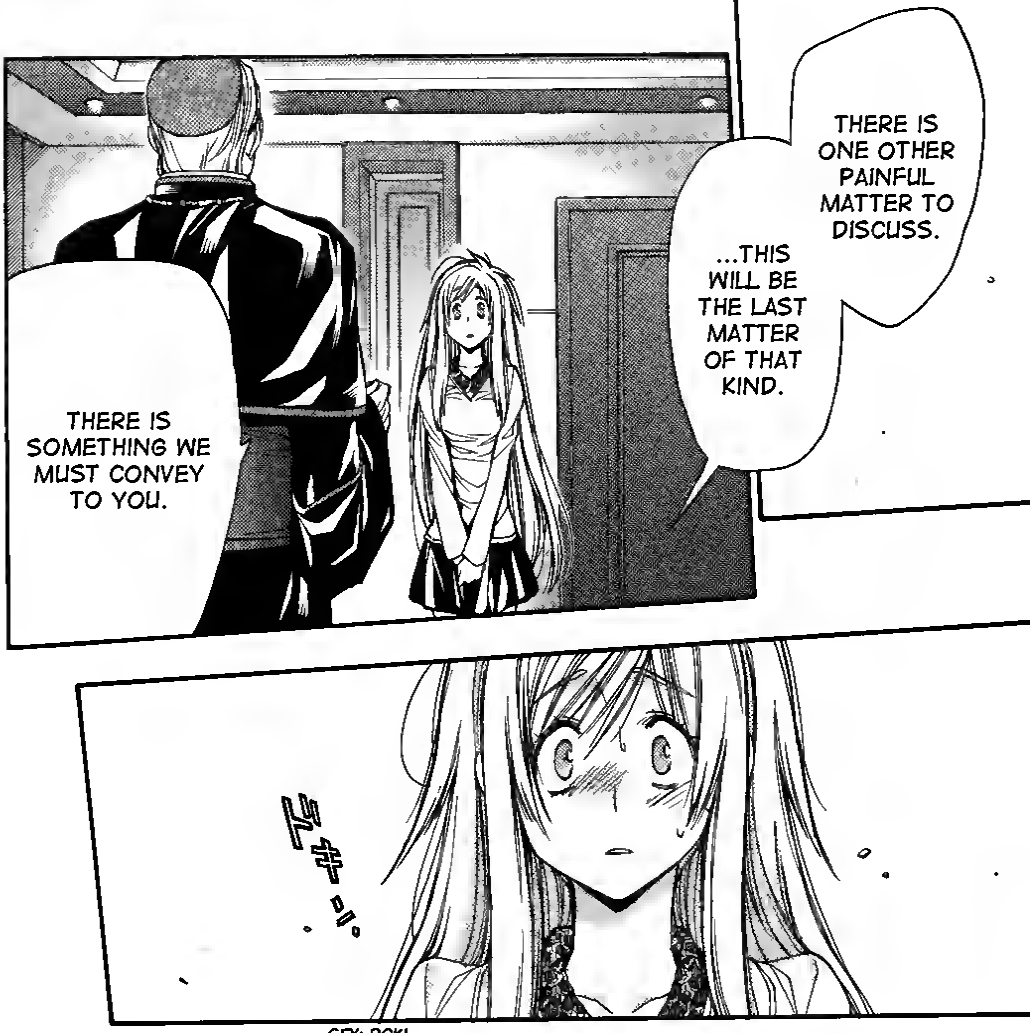
TO BEGIN WITH, I WAS—
ASKED BY YOUR PARENTS TO HAVE YOU LOCATED AND PROTECTED.
THEY CLAIMED "THERE HAVE BEEN SO MANY PEOPLE AFTER THE POWER SHE POSSESSES".
I THOUGHT THAT PUTTING YOU IN PROTECTIVE CUSTODY WOULD BE THE HUMANE THING TO DO.
THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT, BUT...

...I CAN'T BELIEVE THERE WOULD BE SOMEONE WHO WOULD LAY VIOLENT HANDS UPON YOU.
.....
FATHER AND MOTHER WERE TRYING TO HELP ME.
THERE IS NOTHING FOR ME TO FORGIVE.
NOT EVERYONE IS LIKE THAT MAN.
THOSE CATHOLICS... THE VATICAN HAS MANY PROBLEMS.
I THOUGHT I TOO COULD DO SOMETHING—

...EVEN THOUGH YOU SAY THAT,
IN REALITY WE PUT YOU THROUGH SIMPLY AWFUL—
PLEASE STOP THAT.
YOU'RE WRONG.
IT WAS ALL MY...
...YES.


THE FACT THAT ALL OF THIS HAPPENED TO THE PEOPLE TRYING TO HELP ME IS...
I...
UNDER-STOOD NOTHING AT ALL.
EVEN FOR YOU, A BISHOP, TO GRANT THE REQUEST OF MY PARENTS--
ACTING IN MY INTEREST COULD NOT HAVE BEEN EASY.

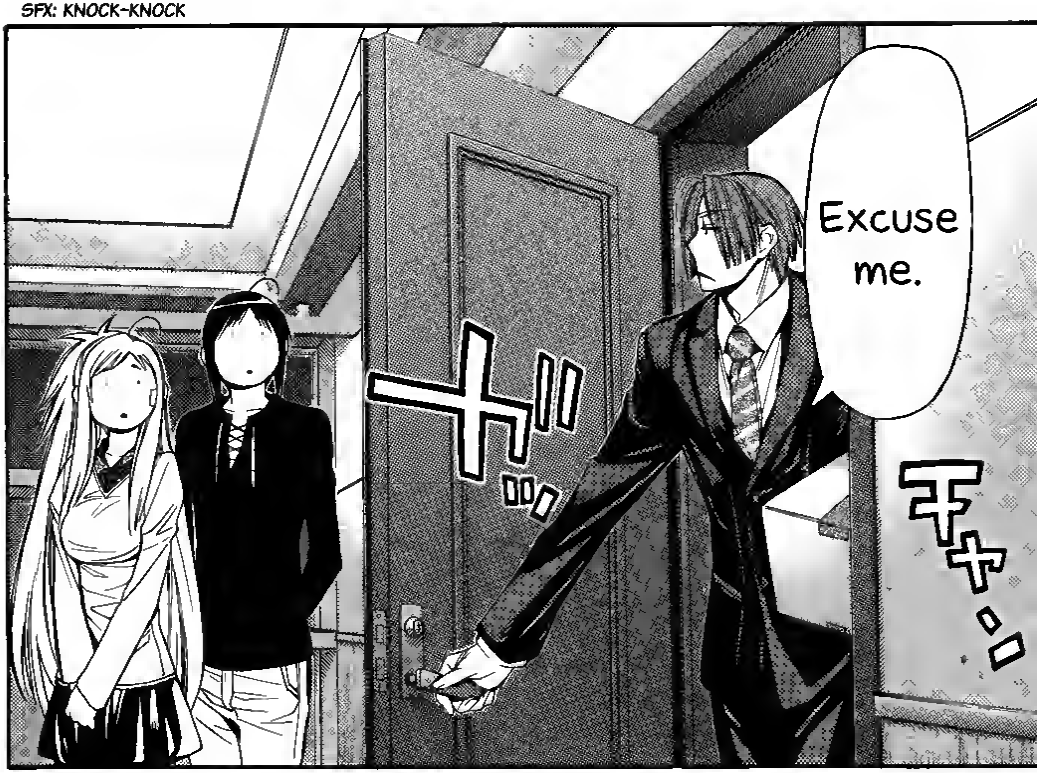
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
IT MUST HAVE BEEN TRULY BOTHER-SOME...
.....
...YES...
HOW STRONG YOU ARE...
.....
...MISS CELCIA.


THERE IS SOMETHING WE MUST CONVEY TO YOU.
...THIS WILL BE THE LAST MATTER OF THAT KIND.
THERE IS ONE OTHER PAINFUL MATTER TO DISCUSS.
ドキ
SFX: DOKI
—UH...
FOR THE VATICAN, IT IS MOST DISAPPOINTING, BUT—

UWAH!
AH...
NO.
IS IT ABOUT LUCA-SAN...?
NO.
NO, NOT YET...
ANY WORD?
NO.
STOP. I DON'T WANT TO HEAR IT.
NO.
THAT IS THE ONE THING I DO NOT WANT TO HEAR ABOUT.
NO.

LUCA-SAN—

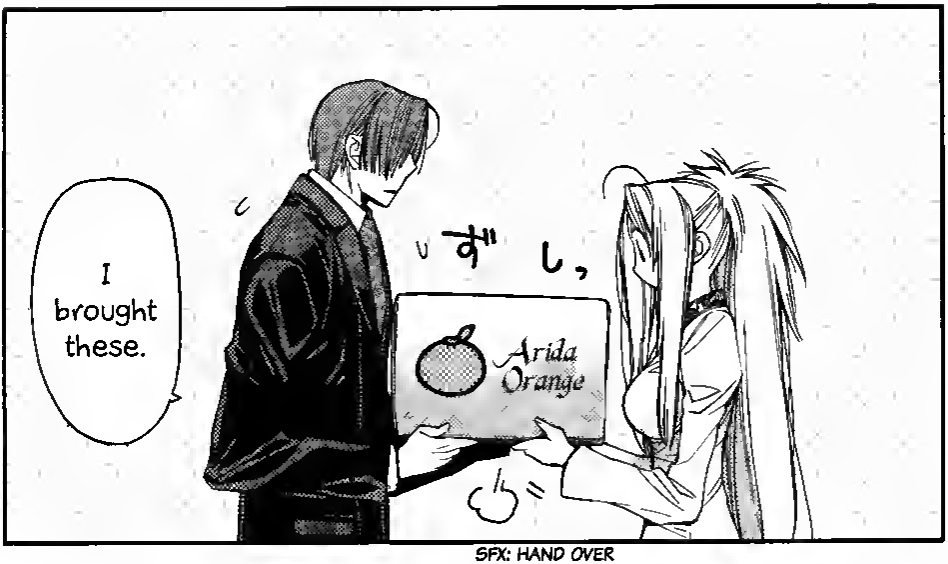
ゴン ゴン.



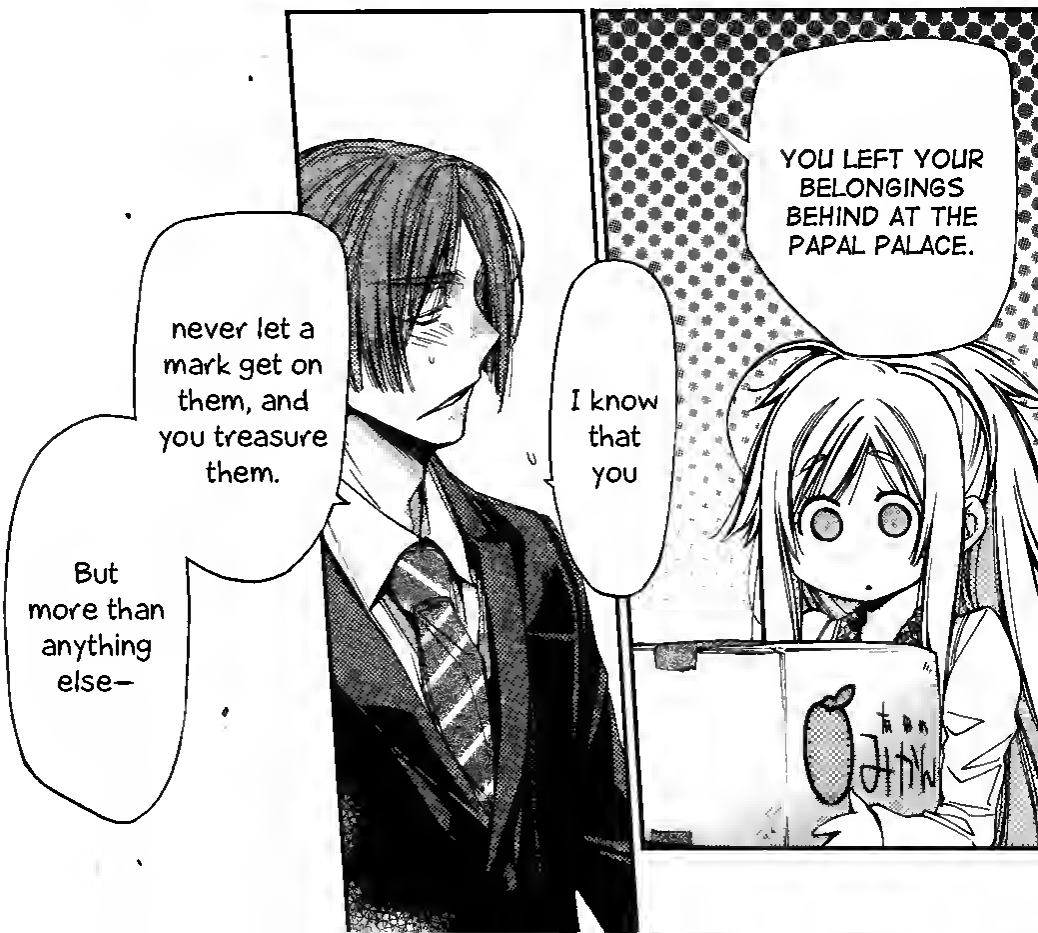
Yes.
THEN PLEASE HAND THE CONTAINER OVER.

OH... LUCA.
YOU BROUGHT IT!
Yes sir.
I apologize for being late, Archbishop.
THERE JUST WEREN'T ANY PLANES ...

!
Celcia ...
Oh...
Celcia...!
Celcia, I—



SFX: HAND OVER


YOU LEFT YOUR BELONGINGS BEHIND AT THE PAPAL PALACE.
I know that you
never let a mark get on them, and you treasure them.
But more than anything else—

SFX: KA-BASH

WHAT ARE YOU DOING???
Wh-
What ?!
H... HOW IN THE WORLD ARE YOU...
DON'T GIVE ME THAT! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS?
C. Celia actually threw it at me..!!
SFX: TREMBLING

LUCA-SAN.
HOW IN THE WORLD ...
HOW ...
I...
I WAS ...
SO WOR-RIED...
...What?
How many times have I told you that you
don't need to worry about m—
ガバーン
GUAH!
TAKE
SFX: KA-BASH

Celcia
...
UHM...
THE GUN-SHOT ...
はー
はー
はー
'GULP'...
SFX: WHEEZE..., GASP..., PANT...
THAT WASN'T YOU...?!
Gunshot...? When?
IN THE PAPAL PALACE WHEN WE ESCAPED.
—Oh, that.

It was probably when Sister Elda
shot it.
!?
Stop that!!
SFX: BONK
She took the gun from me...
She entered the room right after that happened.

and shot Cardinal Jenga.
SFX: BANG
—That wasn't me.